Participation of Workers in Coal Board

1438. SHRI THANGABAALU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to appoint workers on Board of Coal India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) A scheme to give representation to workers on the Boards of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries is being formulated.

(b) The scheme is still under formulation.

Tehri Hydel Dam Project

1439. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to implement Tehri Hydel Dam project despite the fact that the Environmentalists have warned of the dangers due to the geologically unstable area besides various other faults endangering the lives of two to three million people in the rapidly growing downstream towns of Uttarkashi, Munikireti, Rishikesh and Hardwar;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what precise measures are contemplated by Government to ensure the safety of the surrounding area in any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) A Committee of Experts has reviewed the matter and has concluded that though the Tehri Dam is located in a seismic zone, adequate data and studies have been made to arrive at a safe and economic engineering structure and adequate technical expertise is available to deal with the design and construction of the project. The safety aspect of the dam has been looked into and the project has been cleared only after the technical experts have certified its safety.

Expansion of National Organic Chemical Industries

1440. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Organic Chemical Industries Ltd. situated at Thane, Maharashtra is being allowed expansion by way of further investment by a foreign company 'The Royal Dutch/Shell' and raisng its equity involvement from 33 per cent to 40 per cent;

(b) whether Government are aware that the said foreign company is facing worldwide boycott for its assistance to the apartheid in South Africa; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider and rescind its decision to allow the aforesaid expansion so as to express India's opposition to the said Company's role in South Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) M/s National Organic Chemical Industries Ltd. have submitted a proposal for expansion of their existing petrochemical complex at Thane. This proposal envisages increase in the shareholding of Royal Dutch/Shell group of Companies from the existing 33.33 per cent. No decision has so far been taken to allow this proposed expansion.

The Royal/Shell Company is known to operate is South Africa. However, there is no information that this company because of its connection with South Africa faces a boycott elsewhere.